Mr. Maury Povich
WTTG-TV
Wisconsiv Ave at Harrison St.
Washington, D.C.

4/23/85

Dear Maury,

My reporting experiences prior to the work of which you are aware prompt this letter following your today's presentation of an anti-Israeli panel.

I agree with you that all views ought be aired, and I think that we can expect partisans on emotional issues to distort and misrepresent some, as Redgrave did. But I do not believe that it is right for your trust and that of the audience to be imposed upon by outright lies, which is what your Palestinian lawyer did.

My last daily reporting (radio) included the war that led to the establishment of the State of Israel. Prior to military service in World War II I was an investigative reporter specializing in exposes of the Nazis.

I recall clearly that the Grand Mufti Of Jerusalem, so-called spiritual leader of the Arabs, was an overt Nazi, broadcasting from Berlin, from which he escaped to lead Arab anti-Semitism and to foster rather large Arab emigration into what became the State of Israel. A land to which both sides can make legitimate claims. The grand mufti also provided and induced Arab havens for former Nazis, and your research people ought have little difficulty confirming this if it interest you. They were particularly active in Nasser's Egypt. And they had enormous influence in the Arab world.

Anyone with any knowledge of the bible and the history of that era knows that in his alleged "beginning" your Arab lawyer was not honest. It is precisely the dishonesty that is essential for the pretense that Jews lack a right to the land of their origin. But his biggest lie is that Jews have more than 50% of "Palestine" and the Arabs less than 50%.

You are not old enough to recall what Palestine really was for centuries and at the time of the collapse of the Turkish empire at the end of World War I, but I am and after a few inquiries obtained a map of it, from the Jerusalem Post. A copy is enclosed. As you can see, all of Jordan was part of Palestine, and it was at the time of that partition understood that it is the Arab part. It is much greater in extent than what is now Israel, what "perfidious Albion" withheld from the Jews in that partition.

At the time it was established and until after Israel was established, the Arab state was actually known as what it is, the part of Palestine across the Jordan, or "Trans-Jordan." In keeping with the Arab deception that it is not Palestine, the monarch eliminated "Trans" from its name, thereby misleading many perhaps well-intended people. What is now known as the west bank (of the Jordan) was not to have been included in the Arab state and, indeed, it is the very land, Judea, from which comes "Jew."

There are no easy solutions to emotional problems, but there is no solution that can be both just and based on knowing and deliberate lies.

Best wishes,

Harold

Harold Weisberg
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PARTITIONIN

By AHARO

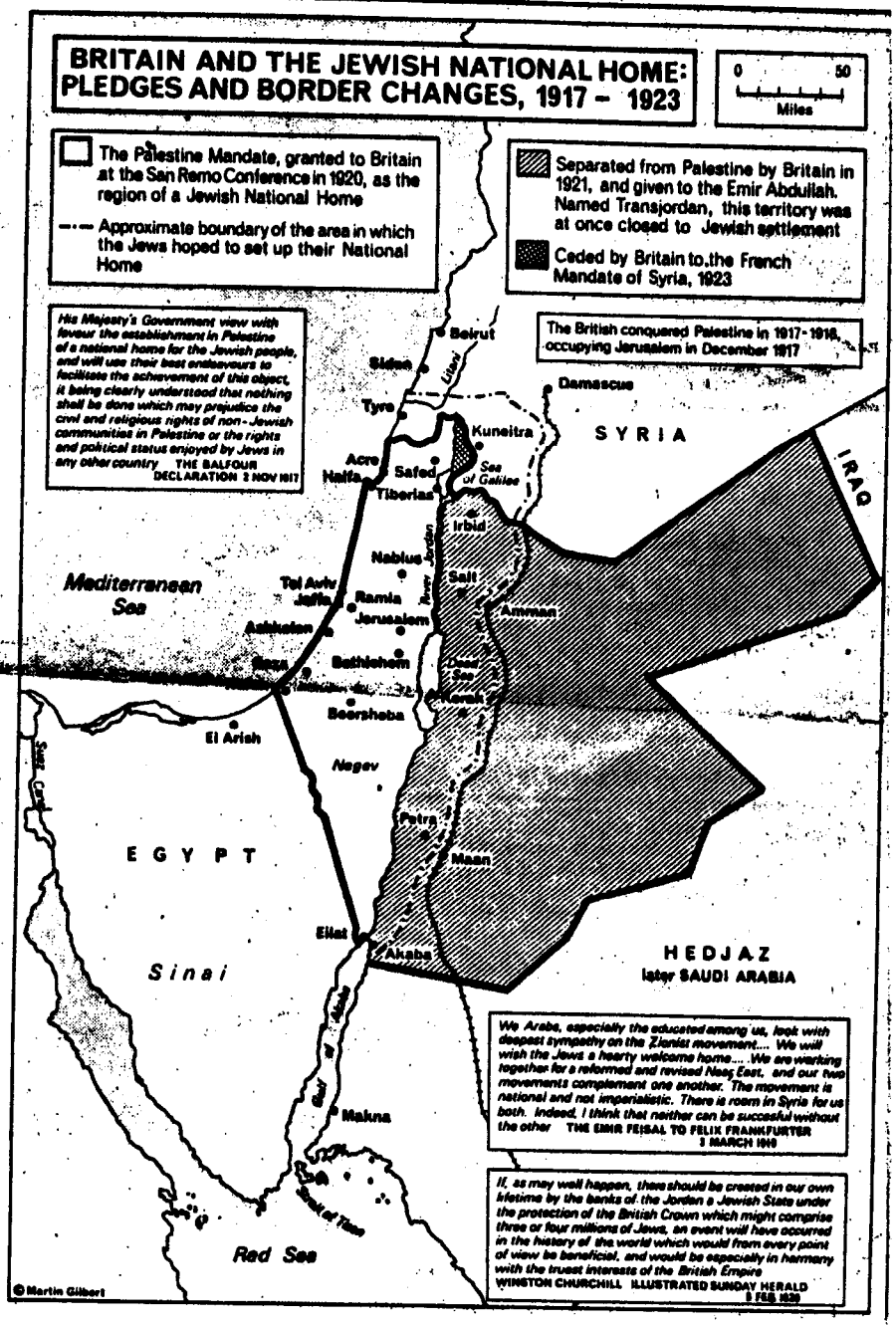
NRY KISSINGER expressed longing of those perplexed by Arab-Israel dispute and its orical legacy when in 1973 he nounced majestically: "The past ad." But as the article "Is Jor- Really Palestine?" (*Jerusalem* — 17 June) reconfirms, the past ill very much with us. Bernard serstein is correct in noting that nany aspects of the conflict in of "more than merely anti- ian interest." The historical rd, therefore, cannot be dis- d; nor should it be dealt with narily or bent to serve one's .

rhaps nowhere is this borne out than in the historical links in rst quarter of this century bet- Cisjordania or "western tine" on the one hand, and jordan on the other. Precisely se this relationship — past, nt and future — of the West of the Jordan River to the lank is at once so relevant and o little researched and un- od, it deserves a more objec- nd comprehensive treatment hat provided by Wasserstein. criticism stems primarily is having confused historical otion with political advocacy. ing upon himself the task of ring the "popular myth" that is Palestine, Wasserstein is an thorough in answering [illegible] ne.

ther due to space limitations cause of his ideological osition, made explicit only in ticle's final sentence, the abandons the historian's marshalling evidence selec- nd by channelling it toward ted viewpoint. Especially g is his conclusion that , not even the facts, should n the way of the Israeli- an agreement he prefers and "must surely become the objective" of Israeli foreign

'ER meritorious this goal e for Wasserstein and ow can he justify dismissing vant, contrary or untidy a dy of historical material ndicates Palestine and dan were initially perceived ot merely by a fringe ele- Jewish nationalists but by nn, Ben-Gurion and m Zionists — as a single al entity? Our concern sequently, is not whether emite Kingdom of Jordan r will be Palestine, but t at a critical point it was ed, making its separation in the years 1921-1922 an tition.

iftermath of World War I issolution of the Ottoman



The maps above are taken from 'The Arab-Israeli C

contenders. Their memorandum to the Paris Peace Conference states unequivocally that the proposed eastern boundary of Palestine

vantage to those like Abdullah who were more purposive. Disproving the image of Great Powers as wholly rational and calculating. His

It is at this point explanation arises. convening a confe